

Table of Scenarios and Corresponding Real-World News Reports

Scenario	Org. & Date	Outlet & Date	News Report
The water treatment facility led to contamination of the base's water supply causing infection among nearly half the base's population. The US CAOC was non-mission capable for 96 hours at the end of the attack. The United States has not been able to attribute these actions and no organization has claimed responsibility	JLASS-SP 2018	<i>Military.com</i> 11/21/2019	Pentagon Warns that Number of Military Bases with Contaminated Water Likely to Rise
EACO terrorist group uses cyberattacks and tainted food as a weapon	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>BBC</i> 2/9/2021	Hacker tries to poison water supply of Florida city
EACO terrorist group conducts full-scale bombing of executive board meetings and even took to planting IEDs on logging roads	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>NBC</i> 1/7/2021 <i>Associated Press</i> 1/11/2021 <i>FOX 7 Austin</i> 2/23/2021 <i>Wisc News</i> 3/1/2021 <i>ABC</i> 3/15/2021 <i>WMI Central</i> 3/26/2021	Improvised explosive device found at Capitol ; Discovery of pipe bombs in DC obscured by riot at Capitol; Multiple IEDs discovered during arrest of Williamson County man ; Beaver Dam man placed on \$50,000 cash bond for possession of pipe bomb, police confirmed that it was an IED or improvised explosive device; FBI report finds Nashville bomber wanted to kill himself, not motivated by terrorism, bomber authorities say set off an IED ; Explosive devices found in trailer in Vernon, deputies allegedly found more than one improvised explosive device (IED)

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Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has grown in reach, size, and might. By 2021, the group has 38,000 members spread across Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger with bases reportedly located in Western Sahara. On May 23, 2023, AQIM carries out the most lethal terror attack in the U.S. since 9/11	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs</i> 3/1/2021 <i>Newsweek</i> 3/17/2021 <i>Middle East North Africa Financial Network</i> 3/18/2021 <i>Nigerian Tribune</i> 3/21/2021 <i>The New York Times</i> 3/22/2021 <i>Middle East Media Research Institute</i> 3/24/2021	Africa Is a Jihadist Playground for the Resurgent Islamic State and al-Qaeda ; When will the World Respond to Jihadi Violence in Africa? ; Stunning Classified Memo Details How U.S. Commandos Are Getting Beaten By Terrorists in Africa ; ISIS, Al-Qaeda Planning To Penetrate Southern Nigeria, US Warns ; 137 People Killed in Niger in Series of Attacks on Villages Along Mali Border ; Following Lull, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) Claims Second 2021 Attack In Chad
Anonymous was declared a terrorist organization in August 2015	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>The Hill</i> 8/1/2019	FBI memo warns QAnon poses potential terror threat: report
In 2023, as fires raged in the western United States, UPAIGO [PAL's other organization] devoted to even more rapidly eroding 'confidence in governmental and institutional bodies by staging events that demonstrate the 'impotency' of the establishment	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>Axios.com</i> 12/26/2020	More than 57,000 U.S. wildfires scorched 10.3 million acres in 2020
The number of corruption convictions of U.S. Border Patrol agents and law enforcement officials skyrockets	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>NBC</i> 12/18/2019 <i>The Washington Post</i> 7/10/2019	ACLU Sues CBP Over 'Highly Secretive' Teams Detaining Travelers ; Teen migrant claims Border Patrol agent sexually assaulted her, sparking federal investigation

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Reports of the defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, like the much-hyped defeat of its predecessor, al-Qaeda in Iraq, turn out to be premature. In the 2020s, the re-re-branded group, draws from refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey and internally displaced persons in Syria and Iraq, while continuing to launch attacks in the region	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>USA Today</i> 8/28/2020 <i>Terrorism Research Initiative</i> 8/2020	ISIS did not simply disappear and now with instability in the Middle East from the coronavirus, the Islamic State is poised for a threatening rise ; ISIS Resurgence in Al Hawl Camp and Human Smuggling Enterprises in Syria: Crime and Terror Convergence?
Drug trafficking organizations, sustained in part by increased local drug consumption, transnational criminal cartels, and local crime rings and gangs, will continue to undermine public security. These factors, and persistent weaknesses in the rule of law, will mean that a few small countries, especially in Central America and the Caribbean, will verge on becoming failed states.	NIC 2008	<i>SF Gate</i> 11/11/2019 <i>The Washington Post</i> 3/18/2021 <i>NPR</i> 3/18/2021 <i>Associated Press</i> 3/22/2021 <i>Associated Press</i> 3/24/2021 <i>Al-Jazeera</i> 3/24/2021 <i>Al-Jazeera</i> 3/25/2021	Power void in Bolivia after president resigns, heads to Mexico ; The Bolivian government is on a lawless course. Its democracy must be preserved ; With Honduras' Narco Allegations, Pressure Rises To Sanction Its Leader ; Mexico worried by killings of politicians ; Haiti court orders release of those accused in alleged coup ; ICRC found that violence, killings and disappearances are on the rise in Colombia in a worrying trend ; Annulment of former President Lula's corruption convictions threw Brazil into unprecedented political chaos

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The world would make a “rapid” transition away from fossil fuels between 2020 to 2025	NIC 2008	<i>USA Today</i> 4/1/2020 <i>CNN</i> 1/28/2021 <i>Republicworld.com</i> 1/4/2021 <i>CNN</i> 2/3/2021	‘We are on the verge of a massive collapse’: Ex-Energy Secretary Perry says COVID-19 will ravage oil industry ; GM plans to sell only emission-free vehicles by 2035 ; Massachusetts Joins California In Making Electric Cars Mandatory By 2035 ; Big oil companies are facing the moment of truth. The stakes couldn't be higher
Failure to create a vaccine against a pandemic disease in which “tens to hundreds of millions of Americans within the US Homeland would become ill and deaths would mount into the tens of millions.	NIC 2008	<i>Voice of America</i> 1/3/2021 <i>Kaiser Family Foundation</i> 1/15/2021	US Passes 350,000 COVID-19 Deaths ; Biden Terms Vaccine Rollout ‘A Dismal Failure’ as He Unveils Pandemic Response Plan
(con’t) Outside the US, critical infrastructure degradation and economic loss on a global scale would result as approximately a third of the worldwide population became ill and hundreds of millions died	NIC 2008	<i>Associated Press</i> 1/15/2021 <i>United Nations</i> 5/13/2020 <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> 1/5/2021	‘This is not a game’: Global virus death toll hits 2 million ; COVID-19 to slash global economic output by \$8.5 trillion over next two years ; Covid-19 Aftermath Could Spell a ‘Lost Decade’ for Global Economy, World Bank Says
Terrorists from the Middle East and North Africa transit the Mexican-U.S. border. Radical Islamists even “camouflage themselves as Hispanics” to cross the border. A flood of name changes from Arabic to Hispanic and the reported linking of drug cartels along the Texas border with Middle East and North Africa terrorism	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>Vox</i> 11/2/2018	The caravan “invasion” and America’s epistemic crisis: the far right’s xenophobic fantasies now involve the actual US military

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Imagining a surprise news headline in 2018 . . . 'Robin Hoodhacker' Paralyzes Online Commerce, Upends Markets Nov. 19, 2018 – New York Online commerce ground to a halt a week before the Christmas shopping season started in the United States, Canada, and Europe after numerous attacks by the persona 'Robin Hoodhacker.' The attacks created chaos by altering online payment accounts by as much as \$100,000 in credit or debts—sparking a frenzy of online shopping that has forced retailers to shut down all digital transactions. The disruption sent global financial markets into a free fall before trading was suspended in most exchanges	NIC 2017	<i>Forbes</i> 9/2/2020 <i>Bloomberg Wealth</i> 10/30/2020 <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> 1/29/2021 <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> 1/29/2021	Robinhood Reportedly Hit By SEC Fraud Probe, Possible Fine Of Over \$10 Million: high-frequency “millennial” machine/app trading ; Dark Web Hackers Say They Hold Keys to 10,000 Robinhood Accounts ; GameStop, AMC Close Week With Surge as Broader Market Falls, Popular online brokerage Robinhood Markets said it would reinstate some trading ; Starbucks Added to List of Restricted Stocks on Robinhood
That drone-launching terror group, PAL... As of 2020, the audacious drone strike on CENTCOM's headquarters was PAL's only terror attack in the tangible world. [note: PAL is military acronym for <i>permissive action link</i> to security codes to nuclear weapons – news articles chosen due to “PAL” used in conjunction with CENTCOM]	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>Joint Forces Staff College</i> 1/14/2021 <i>Stars and Stripes</i> 12/8/2020 <i>CNN</i> 1/8/2021	USCENTCOM Commander visits JFSC ; Biden officially announces he's picked retired CENTCOM Gen. Lloyd Austin for defense secretary ; Pelosi's letter on speaking with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs about Trump and the nuclear codes
In 2021 Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) kills Canadian ambassador and staff during attack on Canadian Embassy in Mauritanian capital	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>CNN</i> 2/22/2021	DR Congo: Italian ambassador killed in attack on UN convoy

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June 2024: an attack, in coordination with members of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), on a U.S. flagged air carrier transporting U.S. military personnel at Shannon Airport in Ireland. Militants fired two surface-to-air missiles at the aircraft, which was damaged but managed to land successfully. Fictional People's Armed Liberation (PAL) terrorist group includes the Irish National Liberation Army	JLASS-SP 2016	<i>The Irish Times</i> 1/19/2021 <i>The Economist</i> 2/6/2021 <i>The Spectator</i> 1/13/2021 <i>The Economist</i> 4/8/2021	Continuity IRA may have fired at civilian helicopter in belief it was PSNI aircraft ; A messy Brexit deal threatens to reignite violence in Northern Ireland ; Northern Ireland is still plagued by terrorism ; Brexit is the catalyst for rioting in Northern Ireland
Imagining a surprise news headline in 2019 . . . Mexico Outlaws Private Drones After Latest Assassination Attempt May 13, 2019 – Mexico City The Mexican Government today announced it was a crime for private citizens to own drones after the fifth “drone-bomb” assassination attempt by drug cartels against senior government officials in less than three months, the latest targeting the new Minister of Interior.	NIC 2017	<i>Liteye.com</i> 7/11/2018 <i>The Drive/The War Zone</i> 8/28/2020 <i>Forbes</i> 8/24/2020 <i>Forbes</i> 4/22/2021	Mexican Cartel Crashes Drone IED into Home of Border State Security Chief ; Drug Cartel Now Assassinates Its Enemies With Bomb-Toting Drones ; Mexican Drug Cartel Carries Out ‘Drone Strikes’ In Gang War ; Mexican Cartel Injures Police Officers With Drone Bomb Attack (UPDATE: Second Cartel Allegedly Using Weaponized Drones)

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Imagining a surprise news headline in 2019 . . . China Buys Uninhabited Fijian Island To Build Military Base February 3, 2019 – Beijing A Chinese development firm—with links to the Chinese Government and People’s Liberation Army— today announced that it recently purchased the uninhabited Cobia Island from the Government of Fiji for \$850 million. Western security analysts assess that China plans to use the island to build a permanent military base in the South Pacific, 3,150 miles southwest of Hawaii.	NIC 2017	<i>The Guardian</i> 4/10/2018 <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> 9/25/2018 <i>The Interpreter</i> 10/4/2018 <i>The Guardian</i> 7/14/2019	'Impossible': China denies planning military base in Vanuatu, New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters: ‘This is hypothetical as Vanuatu have stated that they are not aware of a military base being built’ ; ISLAND GRABBING: China almost has Australia surrounded ; Australia outbids China to fund Fiji military base ; Australia must prepare for a Chinese military base in the Pacific
Generation Z, driven by malaise and discontent, launch a “Zbellion” in America in the mid-2020s. In early 2025, a cadre of these disaffected Zoomers launch a protest movement. Members of Zbellion are given instructions for going to sites on the dark web that allow them to access sophisticated malware to siphon funds from corporations and turn into Bitcoin. Zbellion leadership assures its members that their wealth redistribution is untraceable by law enforcement and ‘justifiable,’ as targets are selected based on ‘secure polling’ of ‘network delegates.’	JLASS 2018	<i>Financial Times</i> 6/12/2020 <i>The Washington Post</i> 4/8/2020 <i>France 24</i> 1/26/2021	Pandemic helps ‘Generation Z’ ignite a movement ; Gen Z was fed up with the status quo. Coronavirus could affirm their beliefs. ; 'Sick of Zoom': Teachers and students rally in France for more virus support

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When there's some super bug out there floating around. But when you shut down schools, you don't just shut down schools, you shut down parents, right? You shut down businesses. You start shutting down all sorts of things. Huge decision! So, you use a game to start playing out the consequences, and the interactions of all those consequences. We did a game for our board of Institute of Civil Justice where they wanted to focus very narrowly on questions of legal liability. Let's say a genetically engineered pathogen escapes containment and causes one of these outbreaks. Who is responsible? Who actually has legal liability for the consequences? Is it the lab? Is it the government funder for the research that produced it? We spent an entire day playing a game letting them look at different scenarios about how that might play out.	The RAND Corporation "The Serious Role of Gaming at RAND" 3/23/2017	<i>War on The Rocks</i> 3/23/2020 <i>The Associated Press</i> 2/4/2021 <i>NBC</i> 2/16/2021	China is Legally Responsible for COVID-19 Damage and Claims Could be in the Trillions ; Lawmakers fast track COVID-19 liability protection bill ; U.S. still hasn't ruled out lab accident origin for Covid because China hasn't been transparent

* JLASS-SP – Defense Department Joint Land, Air and Sea Strategic Special Program

** NIC – National Intelligence Council

Table from **Horseshoes and Hand Grenades**, a section of ***HACKERS' WARS: How the FBI, Pentagon, NATO and technologists staged the Arab Spring and resulting coups and wars, Or: How I Learned to Worry and Stop Loving the Arab Spring: an argument in favor of cyber realism*** by Joanna Bell, M.A.

Table Abstract

Hackers' Wars is a draft of a working paper arguing that the Arab Spring and its resulting coups and wars across the Middle East were orchestrated by US law enforcement, intelligence, and the military establishment with the willing and knowing cooperation of hacker groups like Anonymous, big technology companies, major media outlets and major policy institutions. It makes the argument that the Arab Spring of 2011 was irregular warfare orchestrated by the US against Arab societies.

This table is part of the chapter **Out of the Blue: Wargames and Wars**, from the section **Horseshoes and Hand Grenades** which argues that real world events are exact recreations of wargames scenarioed years earlier in war colleges, think tanks, and intelligence reports.

In the section on wargaming, the reader is informed of US military irregular warfare policy. The significance of discussing military wargaming is to show in three points that:

- 1) Tech companies and protesters did not act alone but alongside the Pentagon and the rest of the US intel-security state which is regularly conducting irregular warfare as official policy;
- 2) Wargaming is a misnomer - wargames are in fact practice for definite future military involvement or may act as cover for simultaneous real military action, and;
- 3) Wargames/continuous simulated warfare act as continuous real irregular warfare and constitute a state of war.

I am suggesting here in the section **Out of the Blue: Wargames and Wars** that many of those in the US policymaking and wargaming industries - especially those that have a hand in both - are disruptive actors employing irregular warfare with the willingness to recreate catastrophic events in the US as they have done abroad under the guise of scenario-based policy planning and wargaming.